

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 5-6 and add new claims 10-11. Claims 1-4 have previously been canceled. Claims 7-11 are now pending in the application. Applicants add claims 10-11 and amend claims 7-9 for clarification. Applicants refer to Figs. 15-17 and their corresponding description in the specification, including page 16, lines 27-30, for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to claim 8 for an apparent informality, which Applicants correct by amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,901,136 to Lovelace et al.; and claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lovelace et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,081,569 to Hanson et al. Applicants cancel claims 5-6 and submit claims 10-11 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Lovelace et al. describe a timing system for coordinating components of a distributed digital cross-connect system, as shown in Figs. 1 and 7 thereof. And Lovelace et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, only describe a network interface island 12—relied upon by the Examiner as disclosure of the claimed interface part—receiving reference timing embedded in a data frame that is distributed via the distributed services node 18. Figs. 7 and 10, and col. 16, lines 2-6 of Lovelace et al.

In other words, Lovelace et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

“[a]transmission apparatus for cross-connecting
channels on a synchronous multiplex transmission network, the
transmission apparatus comprising interface parts and a

common part that includes a cross-connecting part and memories each corresponding to one of the interface parts, each of the interface parts comprising:
 a synchronous pulse generating part configured to generate a reference timing pulse that is synchronized among the interface parts; and
 a frame generating part configured to generate a frame for synchronous multiplex transmission based on the reference timing pulse and outputs the frame to the common part,
 wherein the common part adjusts phases of frames output from the interface parts using the memories,” as recited in claim 10. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10, together with claims 7-8 and 11 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Lovelace et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. The Examiner relied upon Hanson et al. as a combining reference to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claim 9. As such, the addition of this reference would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Lovelace et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such an addition would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

/Dexter Chang/

Dexter T. Chang

Reg. No. 44,071

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-6384

Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987

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